Frederick Law Olmsted

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

National Historic Site





As the site of the nation's first full-scale, professional landscape architecture office, we have a lot of examples of creative uses of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math. We would love you to try out some thing inspired by the happenings of the Olmsted office!

What did the Olmsteds do?

What would parks be without plants? The Olmsteds relied on horticulturalists (plant experts) to advise them about which plants would give the look, feel, and texture they wanted park visitors to experience.

In order to keep the plants in their landscapes healthy, horticulturalists chose plants that needed the type and amount of sunlight, soil, and water that the nature in each location could provide. What plants can grow where YOU are?

What can you do?

Supplies needed:

Small pot or vessel (like a cup)

Seeds

Soil

Water

Sunlight

Directions:

- 1. Pick a pot or vessel to hold you soil and seeds.
- 2. Decorate it with whatever you have on hand to make it your own!
- 3. Add some soil beneath and on top of your seeds. Your seed packet might tell you how many seeds to plant and how deep to place them in the soil.

- 4. Gently water your plant.
- 5. Place your potted plant in the sunlight, and follow any watering instructions that come with your seeds.
- 6. Keep checking on your plant each day to make sure it has enough soil, water, and sun.
- 7. It might take a while for your seeds to sprout, but be patient and watch it grow!
- 8. Once your plant begins to grow, observe how it looks and feels. Share with a family member or friend how your plant makes YOU feel!